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The Baghdad School is participating this year in the extensive and many-sided prehistoric survey in Iranian Khuzistan. The purpose of the expedition to this area which is practically terra-incognita from the point of view of the origin and growth of village-farming communities, is to explore and excavate along the flanks of the Zagros Mountains in order to learn how, when, and where food-production was first achieved in this area, and to correlate the results with those obtained from excavating the earliest agricultural settlements in the arc of hills running from Palestine, through Syria and Lebanon, Southern Turkey, and especially Iraqi-Kurdistan. The expedition as a whole is under the direction of Robert Braidwood of the Oriental Institute, who has devoted his entire scientific career to the field of archaeological research. Bruce Howe of the Peabody Museum, the author of this report, and this year's Annual Professor of the Baghdad School, is the Associate Director. This present communication reports primarily on the preparatory steps which "pave the way" for the excavations to follow, one or more of which will be under his charge as representative of the Baghdad School. Even so, it is already apparent that this pioneer archaeological effort will achieve significant results for the history of pre-urban culture in the Near East.

S. N. K.

After driving in 3 jeeps for 26 days across Yugoslavia, Greece, Turkey and northern Iran, our group of 12 people reached Teheran on Sept. 19th. There was some rain at first and considerable dust and wear and tear toward the end, but the scenery and incidental visits to museums, sites and colleagues all along the way were every bit worth while. Ten days in Teheran between the 19th and 29th were used to perfect our connections with the Antiquities Service (Dr. Samimi) the University of Teheran (Dean Siassi, Prof. Negahban) and with various officers in the Iranian Education Ministry, Police and Gendarmerie and the U.S. Embassy and Consulate. Although it all took time, we found a genuine and understanding welcome at the hands of Drs. Samimi, Siassi and Negahban and most friendly cooperation, help and advice in all other departments. We moved on to Kermanshah en masse, arriving there via Hamadan September 31st, and were temporarily housed and fed by various members of the sizeable American colony there: Messrs. Dove and Jones of our International Cooperation Administration and the U.S. Army non-commissioned officers stationed there on training missions. We set about hunting for permanent quarters and have hopes of possible lodgings in the U.S. Presbyterian Mission hospital compound, subject to a forthcoming committee decision. Meantime, the head and staff of the Kermanshah Refinery of the Iranian National Oil Co. have outdone themselves in friendly welcome and help: jeep service and repairs, much advice, guidance and equipment loans and, best of all, splendid temporary quarters at one



of their pumping stations near Shahabad. Thus, we have been able to start surveying there while awaiting decisions on the Kermanshah quarters. Our two representatives from the Antiquities Service, Dr. Abadani and Mr. Mustofi, are now with us and are proving most helpful as well as pleasant company. Our way has certainly been smoothed by all these good new Iranian and American friends. Save for continued delay in receiving our shipment of over 40 crates and trunks, we really have no complaints at all. Even the weather stays good, despite the season's first rains hereabouts during this last week, and our camp manager continues a high batting average on meals and other arrangements in the face of outrageous fortune.

During a week of informal half-day surveys east of Kermanshah and ten days of full-dress surveying in two valleys near Shahabad, 67 kms., west of Kermanshah, we have begun to pepper the map with worthwhile sites. In the plain between Kermanshah and Bisitun during the first week in October we located an extended open air scatter of coarse Mousterian tools and in the midst of this a perfectly good Acheulean type of handax, perhaps the first such to be reported from Iran. We have also located in this vicinity over 15 small low mounds, a number of which have yielded surface collections of decorated and other sherds, and microlithic and other flint and obsidian industry of considerable interest, suggesting several periods of prehistoric occupation. We are all still feeling our way in this material, however, as there has been so little in the past in the Iranian uplands to compare it to and the counterparts away in the Mesopotamian plain are too distant and dissimilar to provide any sure immediate guide-posts. However, one's impression that the Kermanshah plain is a highly promising area is fully born out by the limited finds to date.

Moving on to our Shahabad quarters on October 12th, we began surveying in the long narrow Karind Valley to northwest, along the main highway to Qasr Shirin and the Iraq border. In this valley nearly a dozen rock shelters in the extensive limestone ridges were inspected but all inconsequential. A quick run southeast of there to the Hulilan Valley revealed more promising looking caves in a somewhat different limestone formation and these are to be investigated at an early date. Meantime, the entire Karind Valley and the western end of the main Shahabad Valley have now been surveyed and thirty-one mounds located thus far, every one possible to detect by eye and hunch in this area. A number of these proved to be either largely unproductive or else of a very late or even recent period; but about a dozen contain some part of the prehistoric material one might tentatively equate, at least on typological and stylistic grounds, with the Hassuna, Halaf, Ubaid and Uruk periods in Mesopotamia. Of this dozen there are two or three small low mounds that also yielded stone industry in the type and quantity one might expect in the early prehistoric village periods. It remains to be seen how this picture develops and we need many more sites before we can achieve any preliminary perspectives on this. The nearly 4 dozen sites located so far are a fine indication of future prospects in this search. We plan on about 10 days more in these valleys, with perhaps a quick run to look at the valleys out toward the Iraqi border. Then we hope to begin in earnest on the Kermanshah and Mahidasht Plains.

BRUCE HOWE, ANNUAL PROFESSOR OF THE BAGHDAD SCHOOL, 1959-60.